

## Recyclers Put Plastic Bottles to Good Use

Visitors to the Central Transfer Station in Centralia have a chance to see how the three "R's" of waste reduction—reduce, re-use, and recycle—are being put to use.

Two-liter plastic bottles make up the walls and roof of a greenhouse recently built by Lewis County Master Recycler Composter (MRC) volunteers. Other materials used were recycled Trex decking for the shelves and crushed glass for the floor. Debbie Burris, MRC coordinator, explained that green bottles were used for the roof to help reduce heat build-up on sunny days, while the walls are made of clear glass.

MRC volunteers began building the greenhouse, which sits on their compost demonstration site at the transfer station, in August and completed it in January. Bob Taylor, MRC president, said collecting enough bottles was the difficult part of this project. The 1,825 bottles used were contributed by MRC volunteers, transfer station customers, and county employees, who brought them to the transfer station.

Bob Taylor said \$100 was spent on wooden frames and concrete for the corner posts, far less than the cost to buy a commercially-made greenhouse. He estimated that about 25 man-hours were spent to build it.



Lewis County's Master Recycler Composters built a greenhouse out of 2-liter plastic bottles and a "cold-frame" (to be used for warming tomatoes). Both are on display at the Central Transfer Station in Centralia.

A greenhouse made of plastic bottles has proven to be sturdy so far, as Bob Taylor points out that it has withstood recent winter weather. MRC volunteers have already started growing seeds inside it.

Another MRC project on display at the transfer station is a "cold frame" made out of 16-ounce plastic water or pop bottles, which volunteers plan on using as a tomato warmer.

Watch a timeline of greenhouse construction by going to <http://lewiscountyrecycles.org>. Plans for building your own recycled plastic bottle greenhouse are also available in the Lewis County Solid Waste office at the Central Transfer Station. Tours of the greenhouse will be given during the MRC Open House, Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.



# REDUCE ♦ RE-USE ♦ RECYCLE

## *Free composting classes coming!*

**L**earn about home composting from the masters! WSU Lewis County Master Recycler Composter volunteers are offering free home composting classes at their compost demonstration site at the Central Transfer Station, 1411 S. Tower Avenue,

Centralia, on the first Saturday of the month, April-September. Classes begin at 10 a.m. on the following Saturdays:

- May 5
- June 2
- July 7
- August 4
- September 1

Volunteers will be available to share their

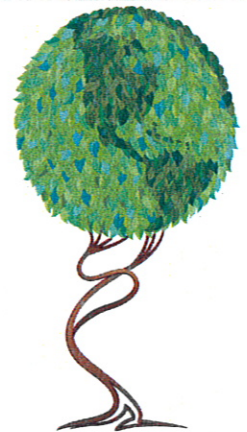
knowledge with beginners, as well as more experienced composters. A free Geo Hoop compost bin will be given to each participant!



## **Earth Day Activities Planned Locally**

Earth Day, a time to show respect for our planet, is Sunday, April 22, this year. Lewis County Solid Waste and volunteers with the WSU Lewis County Master Recycler Composter (MRC) group have planned the following Earth Day events:

- A free Earth Day Carnival for children will be held Saturday, April 14, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, at the Chehalis Timberland Library. Children will learn how to make fun items from recycled materials.
- An Earth Day Open House will take place Saturday, April 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the MRC compost demonstration site at the Central Transfer Station, 1411 S. Tower Ave., Centralia. Visitors will learn about home composting and how to turn kitchen food scraps into fertilizer for lawns and gardens. MRC volunteers will feature their Red Wiggler Worm composting bin and tours of the 2-liter plastic pop bottle greenhouse built by MRC volunteers will be offered. Refreshments will be served! Free document shredding also offered that day from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the transfer station.



## **LEWIS COUNTY SOLID WASTE UTILITY**

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